GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:312
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
MINIMUM WAGES OF WORKERS IN UNORGANISED SECTOR
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of workers in the unorganised sector is growing rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of maximum as well as minimum wages being paid to these workers, State-wise;

(d) whether there have been reports of cases where most of these workers are not being paid minimum wages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): A statement is annexed.

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 312 for 20.10.2008 regarding Minimum Wages of workers in the Unorganized Sector.

(a) & (b): According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 1999-2000, the total employment in both the organized and the unorganized sectors in the country was 39.7 crore, of which 36.9 crore (about 93%) were in the unorganized sector. As per NSSO survey in 2004-05, the total number of workers in the country had risen to 45.9 crore. Out of these, 43.3 crore were in the unorganized sector which constitute 94% of the workforce. The year−wise data of unorganized sector workers is not being maintained.

(c) to (e): A statement indicating the minimum wages for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers is at Annexure-I. Minimum wages are fixed by the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. While in the central sphere, the enforcement is secured through the officers in the Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), the compliance in the State sphere is ensured through the respective State enforcement machinery. The officers of these machineries are appointed as Inspectors under the provisions of the Act. They conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, there are provisions for prosecution in the Act against the defaulting employers. In addition, special inspection drives are also undertaken for ensuring effective implementation of Minimum Wages Act. Details regarding enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act during 2006-07 is given at Annexure-II.